



# rpecNEWS

The Newsletter of the Richmond Peace Education Center

May 1999

## **RPEC Endorses FOR Statement on NATO Bombing**

*On March 29, the Fellowship of Reconciliation published a statement calling for an end to the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia and proposing alternative approaches to respond to the genocide that appeared to be underway in Kosovo. The statement reflected well the principles of nonviolence espoused by RPEC and has now been endorsed by the Board of Directors of RPEC. The statement is published in its entirety in this issue of rpecNEWS. We encourage you to publicize this alternative approach wherever you can.*

The Fellowship of Reconciliation calls for an immediate halt to the NATO attacks on Serb targets in Yugoslavia and Kosovo, and an absolute cessation of the Serbian military and police efforts to kill the leadership of the ethnic Albanian Muslim community of Kosovo while driving the rest of the Islamic community out of Kosovo. The FOR is very aware of the serious, decade long violations of human rights of the majority Albanian Muslim community in Kosovo by the Yugoslav government, military and police. The NATO bombings, however, has turned a very bad situation into a disastrous one, destabilizing relations with Russia and China, establishing a precedent for circumventing the United Nations and dangerously expanding NATO's mission. The bombing has

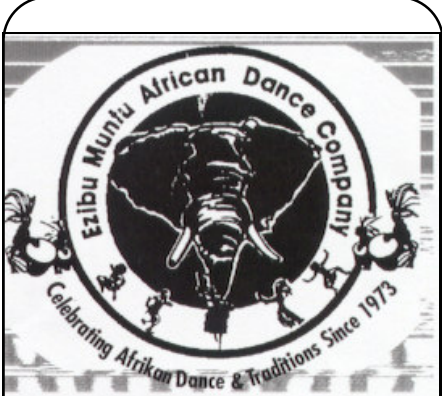
politically bolstered the repressive and unpopular Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, and reinforced his myth of the Serbs as a victimized and abused people. The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), with its own vision of an ethnic state, has also been fortified; while the democratic opposition in Serbia and the forces committed to nonviolence and pluralism in Kosovo have all been undermined by the attacks. The bombing also forced the evacuation the of OSCE monitors from Kosovo and the foreign press from Serbia and Kosovo making it easier for those who do not wish to be held accountable for atrocities against the civilian population. The answer, however, is not to kill more innocent people to punish Milosevic for his slaughter of innocents.

The United States needs to respond creatively and nonviolently to international crises using wisdom and true strength rather than brute force. Our peaceful "weapons," whose strength should not be underestimated, are the commitment to the rule of international law and our democratic civil society with strong economic, cultural and educational institutions.

First, the US should urge the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague to indict Slobodan Milosevic for his war crimes and crimes against humanity in Bosnia, Croatia and Kosovo, and issue an international warrant for his arrest. We should also make it clear that Milosevic is only the top of the pyramid of guilt in the ongoing crimes still taking place in Kosovo.

Second, we need to realize that

*(Continued on page 3)*



**EZIBU MUNTU**

**TO PRESENT DANCE  
CONCERT FOR PEACE  
CENTER SPRING  
FUND RAISER**

(See page 2 for details)

**Death and Taxes**

by Thomas H. Cleary

"Pogo says that what the taxpayer resents about death and taxes is that they do not come in that order." So writes Marian Franz, Director of the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund, located in Washington, DC. This article is written from information given in an article written by Ms. Franz in THE MENNONITE, April 6, 1999.

Tax resistance has a long history. People have suffered mistreatment and imprisonment for disagreeing and resisting the violence of war. Some have been killed. We who have just done our taxes while bombs are falling on Yugoslavia can reflect on the amount of our hard earned money that goes into waging and preparing for war.

Nineteen percent of each dollar

*(Continued on page 6)*

**In This Issue**

RPEC Endorses FOR Statement on NATO Bombing.....1  
 Death and Taxes.....2  
 Ezibut Muntu to Present Dance Concert.....2  
 Zambia Update.....3  
 Abolition Now!! The Gift of Time.....4  
 First Opportunity for Diverse Radio Programming.....5  
 Prayer For Non-violence Set for May 16.....5  
 Kosovo Statement.....6  
 Calendar.....7  
 Contributor's Corner.....8

**RPEC Cookbook**

Remember to send in your recipes for the RPEC Cookbook by June 30. Send them to: Cookbook, c/o RPEC, 14 N. Laurel St., Richmond, VA 23220.

**EZIBU MUNTU TO PRESENT DANCE CONCERT FOR PEACE CENTER SPRING**

On Saturday, May 8, the Richmond Peace Education Center will present in concert the Ezibu Muntu African Dance Company. Ezibu Muntu is Richmond's premiere African dance company, serving the Richmond community and beyond for over 25 years. This not-for-profit organization of dancers, drummers, and individuals is dedicated to bringing African cultural forms and values to wide attention, with the goal of attaining appreciation for African traditions throughout a diversified community. Ezibu attempts to facilitate the audience's understanding of African traditions as they relate to American society and the societies of their ancestors. Concerts illustrate the authentic magnificence of the dance and rhythms with a display of movement and costuming that is entrancing.

The opening act for Ezibu will be the Boushall Dance Troupe, a group of Thomas Boushall Middle School Students, which got its start six years ago as an after school program for 6th to 8th graders. It was so successful that it was incorporated into the school curriculum.

This promises to be a very special occasion for the Peace Center and the community it serves. Mark your calendars now and invite your friends for this exciting event on Saturday, May 8, 7:00 p.m. at Henrico High School, 302 Azalea Avenue. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for students. Call the Peace

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## **RPEC Endorses FOR Statement on NATO Bombing**

*(Continued from page 1)*

Milosevic would be powerless without his soldiers and Special Police. Most of the Yugoslav soldiers and Special Police are young men who were drafted into their present unhappy positions. There is already a very high rate of draft evasion and desertion from the Yugoslav Army. Most of the conscripts would rather be in school or starting a career than killing civilians in Kosovo. If the US and our NATO allies were to offer temporary political asylum to all Serb soldiers, policemen or potential inductees as well as any KLA soldiers who presented themselves at any international border, we would see massive desertions from the Yugoslav military and police. If NATO really wanted to get creative, special airfields and ports could be designated in Macedonia or Greece where Yugoslav Air Force pilots and Navy captains could desert with their aircraft or boats.

At the time of this writing the NATO attack against Yugoslavia has been going on for only 6 days and already it has cost well over \$1 billion. If, for example, this money were used by the UN for educational scholarships or job training, they could afford to offer a \$30,000 scholarship to any of the best universities in Europe or the US for

each of the 30,000 Serbian soldiers and Special Police in Kosovo, and still have plenty of money left to give special enormous bonuses to pilots, captains and tank drivers who deserted and brought their vehicles with them. This better use of American and European tax dollars would save the lives of many Serbs, Kosovars and Americans while furthering the education of a new generation of Yugoslav leadership to take the place of those who would be sitting in prison in The Hague.

Third, we call on all nations of the world to respond to the enormous refugee crisis which has been generated through this crisis. Massive relief efforts must begin immediately to help the scores of thousands of refugees who are pouring across the borders of Macedonia and Albania.

Finally, we call on the United Nations to take the initiative to bring all parties together to find a just and peaceful solution for this crisis.

As a nation and as a world, we cannot afford to follow the time honored, and always tragic, tradition of solving difficult international crises with bombs and missiles. The Fellowship of Reconciliation has been directly involved in the former Yugoslavia since the beginning of the war. During the war in Bosnia, the FOR

## **Zambia Update**

*by Scott Morgan,  
Area Coordinator, Amnesty  
International*

Amnesty International Group 134 in Richmond has learned of new and serious developments in its Zambian Action File. The situation arose on the 9th of March when the Post, which happens to be Zambia's main Independent Newspaper published a story that stated, "Zambian Army Fears Angola."

It has turned out that the Zambian Government has been supplying arms to UNITA, the main opposition group fighting against the elected government of Angola. This has further inflamed tensions in the most unstable part of Africa. We all know that UNITA has received some support from the United States, especially during the Cold War. Since that time the Post has been shut down and is now facing contempt charges, and the Managing Editor, Fred M'membe, and several other reporters are facing espionage charges for the March 9th item. In a further development ZIMA, the Zambian Independent Media Association, will have a peaceful protest on March 31st at 10 a.m. in Lusaka, the Capital. Further updates when they become available.

## **SOA WATCH**

Pentagon Vigil And civil Disobedience  
Monday May 3rd, 7 am (South  
Entrance)

Pentagon Action Preparation  
Required for all those risking arrest at

Pentagon

All participants urged to attend one  
hour intro session at 12 or 4 Sunday  
May 2nd 12 - 3:15 pm or 4 - 7:15 pm  
(Ward Circle Bldg. American  
university)

## **SOA WATCH**

Nunca Mas! Never Again!  
White House Rally Saturday, May  
1st, 12 noon - 5 PM (Lafayette Park)  
Capitol steps Vigil and Lobby Mon/  
Tues May 3/4, 10 am - 6 PM (US  
Capitol East Center Steps)

For local carpools call: (804)457-2631

## Abolition Now!! The Gift of Time

by John Gallini

*The following article is the last in our series taken from The Nation, which devoted its entire February 2/9/98, issue to Jonathan Schell's extensive analysis of nuclear weapons abolition. In this segment we include a brief excerpt from Schell's interview with General George Lee Butler (we have previously provided extensive excerpts from Gen. Butler's National Press Club speech) plus Schell's summary comments.*

Gen. George Lee Butler was commander of the U.S. Strategic Command until 1994. Schell states "He acquired a nuclear education and experience that, in its length, depth and variety, is possibly unmatched by that of any other American of his generation". He first publicly announced his dedication to the goal of nuclear abolition in 1996. Butler states, "If the assumption is that we're not willing to invest money in dismantlement facilities, even though this would require only a fraction of the cost of any cold war weapon system, then nevertheless we can achieve the immediate needs of arms control in large measure simply by taking the weapons off alert. We should do this not so much because we fear the risk of accidental, inadvertent or unauthorized launch as because the two sides must cease sending each other the message that not only do we not trust each other but we are still of a mind to destroy each other and millions of people in the exchange. Why do we still have so-called tactical nuclear weapons in Europe? It's absurd to imagine that

in a Europe that has been totally transformed, these weapons have any conceivable role. And not only that, they arguably are the most dysfunctional, menacing and generally counter-productive element in the current relationship... Why is it that, showing a singular failure of vision and willingness to begin afresh, we are hell-bent to expand NATO? We could easily have proposed working for a few years, on a collegial basis with our former adversaries, to rewrite the rulebook regarding how the world proceeds at this point. This shouldn't be just a dialogue between the U.S. and the former Soviet Union. It should be 1945 afresh - starting again, with a whole new construct.

In his Epilogue Schell offers the following reflections. "When my interviews were done, I found that I needed to reflect on what I had learned... (In the mid-eighties) I advanced (a proposal) which I called "weaponless deterrence". It amounted to an elementary version of the horizontal path of disarmament... Abolition, I concluded, did not have to await the establishment of a world government to protect us against cheaters and rogues - we could proceed to it directly... I was sharply, even painfully, reminded of this objection (to weaponless deterrence) when Joseph Rotblat told me he opposed the idea of "virtual arsenals," and Harald Muller referred to this idea as a symptom of a "sickness" of the mind induced by nuclear arms. I had to admit that I found the doctrine of nuclear deterrence to be

one of the most diabolical riddles ever set before the mind of man... if we accept the doctrine we implicate ourselves in the willingness to kill millions of people, and no amount of casuistry can free us from that complicity."

"The distinction between technical zero and political zero leads into both the moral and the practical center of these vexing issues... There is clearly a difference, as Morton Halperin has suggested, between scattered nuclear "materials" and nuclear "weapons." Perhaps the line between the two is crossed when the plutonium "pits" are removed from warheads. But whether we choose this point or another point, farther along the horizontal path of disarmament, it is unquestionably possible, through technical means, to turn something that is a nuclear weapon into a collection of materials that plainly is not. It therefore would be perfectly accurate to say that when every nuclear weapon has been dismantled to a certain extent, abolition has occurred. And this word, it seems to me, remains fitting whether or not a nation retains the intention to reconstitute nuclear weapons in the event that another nation builds them."

"The definition of political zero requires an entirely different set of calculations, having to do with human will, not with things... To designate political zero, we might press the word "prohibition" into use... Prohibition is in fact the

*(Continued on page 5)*

### **Abolition Now!! The Gift of Time**

*(Continued from page 4)*

more thoroughgoing and difficult step. It is a stage beyond abolition... A legal ban on nuclear weapons requires a renunciation not just of the technical devices but of any intention ever to rebuild them... Prohibition would embody the will of the world to break its reliance on nuclear weapons without qualification or reservation, and to depend entirely on other means for security."

Schell concludes his article (now book) with a reminder that nuclear terror is based in reality. He describes the nuclear destruction of the city of Nagasaki as viewed through the lens of the photographer, Yosuke Yamahata. He has taken a hundred or so pictures of the city the day after it was bombed. Schell reflects: "Yamahata's pictures afford a

glimpse of the end of the world. Yet in our day, when the challenge is not just to apprehend the nuclear peril but to seize a God-given opportunity to dispel it once and for all, we seem to need, in addition, some other picture to counterpoise against ruined Nagasaki - one showing not what we would lose through our failure but what we would gain by our success. What should that picture be, though? Should it be a child, or mother and child or the earth itself? None seems adequate, for how can we give definite form to that which can assume infinite forms, namely the lives of all human beings, now and in the future? Imagination, faced with either the end of the world or its continuation, must remain incomplete. Only action can satisfy. Once, the arrival in the world of new generations took care of itself. Now, they can come into

### **Prayer For Non-Violence Set For May 16**

You are invited to join us for a service of prayer Sunday, May 16, at 7:00 PM at Bon Air Presbyterian Church (Huguenot Rd and Forest Hill Ave)

*It is better to light a candle - Than to curse the darkness.*

Come prepared to share two or three sentences from an author whose peace-making testimony has been important to you. The service will include lifting up areas of violence in the world, as well as sharing our messages of hope.

Sponsored jointly by Pax Christi Richmond and the Peace Study/Action Group of Bon Air Presbyterian Church.

### **First Opportunity in Twenty Years for Diverse Radio Programming**

Please call your representatives: Honorable Scott, Bliley, Robb & Warner.

Ask them to support community radio. For 20 years more radio stations have increasingly fallen under the control of the few. In an effort to reverse this trend, the FCC has issued a proposal for "Low Power Radio Service" (LPRS) that would:

1. Re-legalize Affordable stations of less than 100 Watts The largest Low Power Radio Service of 1000 Watts has an 18-mile range to cover just one community.
2. Open New Legal Frequencies for Low Power Radio Service use 460 existing full-power stations are

currently in violation of FCC rules that were written to prevent interference, however they are not causing any interference complaints. A change in these rules could allow these stations to exist legally and open up new frequencies for more stations.

3. Retain Low Power Radio Service for NEW Ownership Only to minimize further consolidation of power in radio, an owner of any station anywhere should not apply.
4. Retain Low Power Radio Service for LOCAL Ownership Only Owners should live within the community being served. The emphasis should be on LOCAL. The deadline for the "Public

Comment period" is June 1, 1999. Call your Representatives and Senators and ask them to "Support the LPRS."

Robert C. Scott (804) 644-4845; no e-mail

Thomas J. Bliley, Jr. (804) 771-2809 or tom.bliley@mail.house.gov

Charles Robb (804) 771-2221 or senator@robb.senate.gov

John Warner (804) 771-2579 or senator@warner.senate.gov  
For more information, call 649-WRFR

**Other Statements Concerning Kosovo**

*The bombing in Yugoslavia has elicited a variety of responses from groups often opposed to military solutions. These are some of them:*

**The Center for Defense Information:**

March 24 Position Paper: "Reluctantly, but in the face of continued, directed, large scale action of the Serb military and police against ethnic Albanian Kosovars, CDI has concluded that a bombing campaign by NATO is the only short-term course available for stopping the carnage and allowing the placement of a peacekeeping force in the Serbian province of Kosovo."

March 26 article by Adm. Eugene Carroll Jr. (Deputy Director of CDI): "Most Americans agree that Slobodan Milosevic is an inhumane despot who has brought misery and devastation to the former Yugoslavia... Even though this is true, one question must still be asked -- Why has NATO, led by the U.S., resorted to a destructive bombing campaign against Serbia when military action cannot resolve the issues that underlie the violence in Kosovo? There simply is no military solution to the complex historic, ethnic and religious issues motivating the conflict there..."

**Amnesty International letter to all parties involved in the Kosovo conflict**

March 23: The need to respect international humanitarian law is

now more important than ever in Kosovo and the rest of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Amnesty International today said in a letter sent to NATO, President Slobodan Milosevic and the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA).

The letter urged all parties to respect in full their obligations to protect civilian lives and to give proper treatment to prisoners and others playing no active part in the hostilities, including wounded and captured combatants. Amnesty International also called on all parties to take all measures to protect civilians, including not using them as human shields in any way and by refraining from any direct attacks on noncombatants, as well as from any indiscriminate or disproportionate attacks. Amnesty International takes no position on the political issues surrounding the status of Kosovo and the threat of military intervention on the part of NATO.

**Pope John Paul II:**

March 26: The conflict in Kosovo "wounds all of Europe. I ask insistently that everything be undertaken to establish peace in the region and that people be able to live in fellowship in their land. Answering violence with violence is never the way to get out of a crisis. What must be done is to silence arms and acts of vengeance in order to undertake negotiations" leading to a peace agreement respectful "of different peoples and cultures."



**Death and Taxes**

*(Continued from page 2)*

will go into debts on past wars and veterans' affairs and 24 percent will go to new military spending above what is being spent. Meanwhile, each day 32,000 children die due to lack of nutrition and inexpensive vaccines. According to The Center for Defense Information, we spend \$8,271 each second, \$725,274,725 each day, and more than \$5,000,000,000 (billion) each week for military use.

How wonderful it would be if we found a mechanism to register our resistance to this spending. Such a mechanism could be found if Congress would establish a Peace Tax Fund into which our money could be placed. The Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund bill has been introduced in Congress and will be introduced again this year. The idea is gaining strength year by year among individuals and religious bodies. More information on this issue and the bill in Congress is available at: National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund, 2121 Decatur Pl. NW, Washington, DC, 20008-1923

In the Richmond area there are persons who deposit withheld taxes in an escrow account whose earnings are periodically distributed



**For June Newsletter  
May 10**

May '99

CALENDAR

**Meetings of Local Groups**

- Every Wed.**                    **General Strike**, 8:00 PM. Call 355-6914 for details
- Every 3rd Wed.**            **Amnesty International**, 7:00 PM at Friends Meeting. 4500 Kensington Ave. Call 320-9488
- Every 2nd Thurs.**        **Virginians Against Handgun Violence**, 7:15 PM., Jewish Community Center, B. Phillips-Taylor, 737-2975
- Every 3rd Friday**        **Sufi Dancing: Dances of Universal Peace**, 7:30-9:30 PM except Oct. Round House, Byrd Park. 353-4901
- Every Thurs.**              **Richmond Organization for Sexual Minority Youth (ROSMY)**, 7:00-9:00 PM. Call support line: 353-2077 for more information; 353-1699 for the administrative line.
- Every 3rd Sat.**              **Virginians for Justice**, 12:00 noon at the office. A political advocacy group working towards equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens of Virginia. Open to the public. Contact number is 643-4816.
- Every 3rd Sun.**              **Richmond Community for Ethics and Meaning**, at First Unitarian. 1000 Blanton Ave., 5-8 PM, Susan at 784-4069.
- Every 4th Sat.**              **Pax Christi Peace Community** - Call Elaine Ogburn for details - 320-4514.
- Every 2nd Mon.**            **Virginia People of Faith for Alternatives to the Death Penalty**, 4:45 PM  
Catholic Diocese Conference Room, Floyd and Cherry. Kathleen Kenney, 359-5661

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- April 29**                    **Impact**, demonstration at Phillip Morris Main Gate; meet at Hardee's Restaurant at Bell's Road Exit off I95 at 8:00 AM;
- April 30**                    **Bellemeade Center**; 50+ Senior Dance. 8:00 - 10:00 PM at Bellemeade Center. Dance to the Big Band music of Bill Zickenfus and his orchestra.
- May 1**                        **Rally to Close the SOA**, in D.C, Saturday, Noon - 5 PM, . (Lafayette Park) - civil disobedience on Monday (5/3) and a vigil on the Capitol Steps + lobbying on Mon. and Tues.
- May 3**                        **RPEC 1999 Peace Essay Contest Deadline**; Get your entries to RPEC, 14 N. Laurel St., Richmond, VA 23220.
- May 8**                        **RPEC Spring Dance Concert**; 7:00 PM, Henrico High School, 302 Azalea Avenue. Featuring the Ezibu Muntu Dancers.
- May 12**                      **Scheduled execution of Calvin Swan**, Wednesday, 8:30 PM, . A prayer service will be held at Richmond Friends Meeting (Kensington and Commonwealth).
- May 16**                      **Prayer Service**, 7:00 PM, at Bon Air Presbyterian Church, to celebrate non-violence, sponsored by Pax Christi Richmond and Bon Air Presbyterian Peace Study/Action Group.
- June 4**                        **An Evening With Jim Wallis**; The leader of Sojourners will speak at 7:30 PM at the Church of the Incarnation, Charlottesville. Sponsored by the OJP of the Cath. Diocese and the Va. Interfaith Center for Public Policy. For details call (804) 359-5661.

**RPEC World Wide Web Address:**  
**<http://www.rpec.org>**



**Contributor's Corner**

**Thanks!**

- to Ukrop's and to those who contributed Golden Gift Certificates. The Peace Center received \$233.31 from these efforts!
- to State employees who contributed over \$1400 through the Combined Virginia Campaign
- to contributors with the Combined Federal Campaign for almost \$300.

Your support makes it possible for the Center to continue being a voice for peace and justice in our community.

**Other ways of supporting the Center include:**

- sending a check- (\$ 10 will cover the cost of the newsletter for one year)
- contributing your favorite recipe for the Peace Center's Cookbook
- attending the Spring Dance Concert on May 8 at Henrico High School and inviting others to come
- volunteering for special events or routine office duties
- recruiting new members
- responding to calls for action on issues of peace and justice



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